

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Upstairs Boardroom in mTek1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 17th May 2021 at 15.00pm.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly, Cathy Bennett, David Maxwell, Raymond Aughey and Sean Conlon

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer. Sharon Finnegan, Environmental Education Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr. Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 19th April 2021 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr Conlon referred to the Rossmore cycle trail being rolled out in Autumn and proposed that research be carried out on the potential to have it extended at a later stage.

Mr McElwain responded that the cycle trail is set for family cycling and that there are no plans to extend it.

Cllr Bennett asked for an update on footpath at Scotstown village, Hollywood and the fencing at Rossmore playground, and are there proposals on how the money would be spent on the Greenway. Mr McElwain responded that Scotstown footpath is part of the Active Travel application, Hollywood redevelopment has gone out to tender, quotations have been received for the repair of fencing and that we have not evaluated as yet on how the money for Greenway would be spent.

Cllr Treanor raised issues of Devin Reilly Terrace, traffic diverting off Cootehill Road via Pound hill, and any update on the fence between Oakridge and Beechgrove lawns that that not completed. He added that the wall at Dr O’Gorman’s is extremely dangerous.

Cllr Conlon asked for an update on staffing levels to which Mr McElwain responded that two permanent staff were employed, and that the MD is seeking two seasonal workers this year. Cllr Conlon complimented the Biodiversity Plan this year.

3. eParking:

Cllr Connolly welcomed eParking to Monaghan town and advised people to download the App. All members agreed that this was a welcome addition to pay parking. Mr McElwain stated that the new system will give people an alternative way of paying for their parking. It is not a ticket system and it would be extra work for the Wardens to key in number plates to establish if payment has been made. He also noted that the existing machines and coin system will remain in place.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his Report to the members.

Cllr Maxwell stated that an email was received by members in the thirteenth hour stating opposition to the removal of Gavin Duffy property to which he had received no previous submission. Mr Murray advised that the part V111 has been completed and will check with the Planning Officer regarding the de-listing and revert to the members.

Cllr Maxwell hoped that the green space with summer benches outside the Courthouse will be installed by the end of May.

Cllr Maxwell raised the issue of overgrown trees in private property in Beechgrove Lawns. Some discussion took place on the issues involved include land ownership. Mr McElwain advised that the MD can write to the landowner again.

5. Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023:

Ms Finnegan outlined her Presentation which was followed by questions and answers. The members thanked Ms Finnegan for the Presentation.

6. Questions and Responses:

Cllr Conlon asked:

1) Following the recent stabilising of the derelict corner property at Mill St. / North Rd., please provide an update on the remaining 5 derelict sites acquired by Council in Monaghan Town in recent years, and also is there consideration by Council on acquiring additional derelict sites that have been an eyesore over many decades?

Response: Due to the difficulties experienced in issuing licences for works on Derelict Houses, we are awaiting completion of contracts for No 25 Old Cross Square, before we proceed with other sales.

2) With Covid restrictions gradually easing and promotion of outdoor social activity, are the Council planning on re-instating the previously popular green space in front of the courthouse?

Response: The council have been in discussion with the Town Team and it is planned to have the Green Space in place by end of May.

3) I ask Council Executive to provide an update on any progress relating to acquisition of additional car parking in Monaghan Town.

Response: Additional car parking spaces are to be provided as part of the Peace Campus project. The Council also have negotiated an additional car park location and documentation is currently been finalise.

4) With the completion of civil infrastructure works at Mullach Glas, I seek explanation regarding the steps required to advance the "Taking in Charge" process at both Mullach Glas and Rowantree Court.

Response: Water Services are actively progressing works in this development. Two separate tenders were recently run for water services related works / upgrades in the estate. It is hoped that these works will commence at the start of June and take approx. a month to complete. Following this

Irish Water will be liaised with regards progressing the taking in charge process to completion.

5) Following this Council's site meeting and inspection at Belgium Park Soccer pitch eighteen months ago to assess the poor condition of facilities and surrounding environs, what plans are under consideration to provide overdue upgrading of this popular recreational amenity?

Response: No current plans in place, when suitable funding is available Monaghan MD will make an application for the necessary upgrades.

Repairs and reseeding works were carried out to any necessary areas of the playing pitch in 2020.

Cllr McKenna asked:

1) Will this Council ensure that the roadside verges are filled on road No. L1110 from the N2 to Ivyhill. The drop off on the verge in some cases are 14" deep and would cause serious damage to road user vehicles should they go over the verge.

Response: Side filling at the road edges on the LP1110 is currently in progress.

2) Will this Council ensure roadside verges are filled from Edenmore N.S. to the N2 at Tirraneill. This road was extensively used during the re-alignment of the N2 at Corracrin.

Response: Side filling at the road edges on the LP1153 and LP1154 is currently in progress.

3) Will this Council ensure that the necessary drainage works are carried out on road No. L52201 (Knocknasave) which flooded during the winter, causing potholes on the road and a subsequent claim from motorist for damage caused to their vehicle.

Response: The MD will investigate the LT52201 and arrange for any necessary drainage works to be carried out.

7. Votes of Sympathy:

The members and Executive conveyed their deepest sympathy to:

The McManus Family on the passing of Ester McManus RIP.

The family of Lord Paddy Rossmore RIP.

8. AOB:

Cllr Connolly complimented the Library Services on the Sliabh Beagh booklet.

Cllr Connolly proposed that we meet with An Gardai with a view to installing surveillance cameras on the roads approaching Sliabh Beagh which was seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed by all members.

Dated this 17th day of May 2021

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator